This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for creating booking requests pertaining to information relating to the transport of a container, said information including at least one of a carrier name, departure date, departure time, departure location, arrival date, arrival time, arrival location, origin, and destination, the system comprising:

a plurality of entities registered with the system, each entity having a computer storage, each of the entities configured to communicate communicating with users over a first communication pathway to establish a shipping rate for pertaining to the shipment of containers using a given entity and generating generate a contract reference; and

a server at a second entity that is configured to receive information from said computer storage of said plurality of entities over a second communication pathway and provide a computer user interface for display on a user's computer over a third communication pathway, the computer user interface including a field configured to receive the contract reference, said server configured to receive from a user over the third communication pathway an electronic booking request including the information relating to the transport of a container, said server including a storage configured to store templates of electronic booking requests and provide one of said templates based on a search of templates performed by said user, said electronic booking request received over the third communication pathway having been created from one of said stored templates.

said server further configured to transmit said electronic booking request including the contract reference to at least a first entity of said plurality of entities over the second communication pathway, wherein the contract reference pertains to the established shipping rate between at least the first entity and the user.

2.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic booking request is created from a template stored on the system, wherein the template was created by the user prior to the creation of the electronic booking request.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic booking request is created from a previously drafted electronic booking stored on the system. ~~system, wherein the previously drafted electronic booking was created by the user or any other user prior to the creation of the electronic booking request, and wherein the previously drafted electronic booking was selected from results of a search performed by the user.~~

4.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 3, wherein the previously drafted electronic booking was a confirmed electronic booking request that was confirmed by at least one of the plurality of entities registered with the system prior to the user or the any other user creating the electronic booking request.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic booking request further includes information regarding the container being transported from an inland origin to a first vessel, the container being loaded onto the first vessel, the container being transported by the first vessel to a location, the container being discharged from the first vessel, and the container being delivered to a destination.

6-7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 1, wherein the user is a new customer of the first entity.

9-12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A system for creating booking requests pertaining to information relating to the transport of a container, said information including at least one of a carrier name, departure date, departure time, departure location, arrival date, arrival time, arrival location, origin, and destination, the system comprising:

a plurality of entities registered with the system, each entity having a computer storage, each of the entities configured to communicate ~~communicating~~ with users over a first communication pathway to establish a shipping rate pertaining to the shipment of a quantity of containers using a given entity and ~~generating~~ generate a contract reference; and

a server configured to receive information from a computer storage of a first entity of said plurality of entities over a second communication pathway and provide a computer user interface for display on a user's computer over a third communication pathway, the computer user interface including a field configured to receive the contract reference, the server configured to receive from a user over the third communication pathway an electronic booking request including the information relating to the transport of a container, said server including a storage configured to store templates of electronic booking requests and provide one of said templates based on a search of templates performed by said user, said electronic booking request received over the third communication pathway having been created from one of said stored templates.

said server further configured to transmit said electronic booking request including the contract reference to at least the first entity over the second communication pathway, wherein the contract reference pertains to the established shipping rate between at least the first entity and the user,

wherein the system, responsive to confirmation from the first entity to the user and registered entity data, is configured to generate electronic event notification messages.

14.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 13, wherein the server is configured to receive an indication from the user over the third communication pathway that is used to determine when the system should notify the user of an event.

15.   (Original)   The system according to claim 14, wherein the event is a non-event.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 15, wherein the system is configured to notify the user of the non-event over the third communication pathway

after a predetermined time period has lapsed and the event has not occurred such that the server is configured to set the predetermined time period based on user designation.

17-51. (Cancelled)

52.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic booking request comprises a routing request.

53.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 52, wherein the confirmation of the electronic booking request comprises routing information.

54.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface is further configured to receive shipping instructions from the user over the third communication pathway, said server further configured to send the shipping instructions combined with the booking request to the first entity over the second communication pathway.

55.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface is further configured to enable the user to receive a booking activity plan from the first entity over the second communication pathway.

56.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 55, wherein the confirmation of the electronic booking request further comprises a booking activity plan.

57.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 55, wherein the booking activity plan further comprises transport modes, transhipment locations, and interim arrival and departure dates and times.

58.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic booking request includes Extensible Markup Language (XML).

59.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured to receive the electronic booking request via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).

60.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured to receive the electronic booking request via website.

61.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured to receive the electronic booking request via electronic mail.

62.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured to transmit confirmation of the electronic booking request to the user via EDI.

63.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured to transmit confirmation of the electronic booking request to the user via electronic mail.

64.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured to transmit confirmation of the electronic booking request such that the confirmation is configured to be displayed to the user via a pop-up dialogue box.

65.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 13, wherein the server is configured to generate the electronic event notification messages using electronic mail.

66.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 13, wherein the server is configured to transmit electronic event notification messages that are displayed to the user via pop-up dialogue boxes.

67.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 13, wherein the server is configured to generate electronic event notification messages using EDI.

68.   (Currently Amended) A system for creating booking requests pertaining to information relating to the transport of a container, said information including at least one of a carrier name, departure date, departure time, departure location, arrival date, arrival time, arrival location, origin, and destination, the system comprising:

a first computer storage located at a first carrier registered with the system;

a second computer storage located at a second carrier registered with the system, the first and second carriers configured to communicate with users over a first communication pathway to establish a shipping rate pertaining to the shipment of a quantity of containers using a given entity and ~~generating~~ generate a contract reference; and

a server that receives information from said first storage and said second storage over a second communication pathway, said server configured to provide a computer user interface for display on a user's computer over a third communication pathway, the computer user interface including a field configured to receive the contract reference, the server configured to receive from a user over the third communication pathway an electronic booking request including the information relating to the transport of a container, and to transmit said request to at least one of the first and second carriers, said electronic booking request including information relating to the transport of a container, said server including a storage configured to store templates of electronic booking requests and provide one of said templates based on a search of templates performed by said user, said electronic booking request received over the third communication pathway having been created from one of said stored templates. said server configured:

to receive a routing request from the user over the third communication pathway and to transmit the routing request to at least one of the first and second carriers over the second communication pathway;

to receive shipping instructions from the user over the third communication pathway and to transmit said instructions to at least one of the first and second carriers over the second communication pathway;

to receive a confirmation of the electronic booking request from at least one of the first and second carriers over the second communication pathway and to transmit the confirmation to the user over the third communication pathway;

to receive routing information from at least one of the first and second carriers over the second communication pathway and to transmit the routing information to the user over the third communication pathway; and

to receive a booking activity plan from at least one of the first and second carriers over the second communication pathway and to transmit the booking activity plan to the user over the third communication pathway, wherein the booking activity plan includes transport modes, transhipment locations, and interim arrival and departure dates and times.

69.   (Currently Amended) A system for creating booking requests pertaining to information relating to the transport of a container, said information including at least one of a carrier name, departure date, departure time, departure location, arrival date, arrival time, arrival location, origin, and destination, the system comprising:

a first storage located at a user registered with the system;

a second storage located at a carrier registered with the system, the carrier configured to communicate with the user over a first communication pathway to establish a shipping rate pertaining to the shipment of a quantity of containers using a given entity and ~~generating~~ generate a contract reference; and

a server including a storage configured to store templates of electronic booking requests and provide one of said templates based on a search of templates performed by said user, said server configured:

to receive an electronic booking request sent from the first storage over a second communication pathway, said electronic booking request including information relating to the transport of a container, said electronic booking request including a field corresponding to a contract reference pertaining to an established shipping rate between the user and the carrier, said electronic booking request having been created from one of said stored templates,

to store the electronic booking request including the contract reference field,

to transmit information relating to said electronic booking request to the second storage over a third communication pathway, wherein the electronic booking request includes a request to transport one or more containers,

to receive information from said carrier relating to said request over the third communication pathway, and

to forward a message to said user over the second communication pathway based on said information received from said carrier regarding said request.

70.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 69, wherein the electronic booking request comprises an EDI message.

71.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 69, wherein the electronic booking request comprises an XML message.

72.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 69, wherein the server is configured to sent the electronic booking request to the second storage over the third communication pathway using EDI.

73.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 69, wherein the server receives a confirmation of the electronic booking request from the carrier over the third communication pathway as at least part of said information.

74.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 73, wherein the confirmation of the electronic booking request comprises routing information.

75.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 73, wherein the confirmation of the electronic booking request comprises a carrier booking number.

76.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 69, wherein the server is further configured to receive a booking activity plan from the carrier over the third

communication pathway and to use the booking activity plan to provide container tracking services to the user over the second communication pathway.

77.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 69, wherein the server is further configured to modify a booking after physical movement of the one or more containers has begun.

78.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 1, wherein said server forwards said request to at least said first entity of said plurality of entities.

79.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 13, wherein said server forwards said request to said at least first entity.

80.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 68, wherein said server forwards said request to said at least one of the first and second carriers.

81.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 69, wherein said server forwards said electronic booking request to said at least one of the first and second carriers.

82.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface further enables the user to send shipping instructions to the first entity through the server after the user has received confirmation of said booking request from the server.